

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion and in view of the present amendment, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5 are allowed. Claims 6-10 have been amended. Claims 1-10 are pending and under consideration. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found in the claims as originally filed. This amendment is believed to place the application in condition for allowance, and entry therefore is respectfully requested. In the alternative, entry of this amendment is requested as placing the application in better condition for appeal by, at least, reducing the number of issues outstanding.

Interview

Appreciation is expressed to the Examiner for the telephone interview granted by the Examiner on July 21, 2006. During the interview, the possibility of more definitely reciting the structure of the status bit setting circuit was discussed. Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claim 6 in accordance with this discussion. Other points raised during the interview are included in the comments below.

Entry of Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

The Applicant requests entry of this Rule 116 Response because: the amendments were not earlier presented because the Applicant believed in good faith that the cited references did not disclose the present invention as previously claimed. No new features or new issues are being raised.

The Manual of Patent Examining Procedures (M.P.E.P.) sets forth in Section 714.12 that "any amendment that would place the case either in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal may be entered." Moreover, Section 714.13 sets forth that "the Proposed Amendment should be given sufficient consideration to determine whether the claims are in condition for allowance and/or whether the issues on appeal are simplified." The M.P.E.P. further articulates that the reason for any non-entry should be explained expressly in the Advisory Action.

I. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, at pages 2-5, numbered paragraphs 2-3, claims 6-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Nix (U.S. Patent No. 4,897,810) in view of Alwais (U.S. Patent No. 6,362,675).

Neither Nix nor Alwais discusses or suggests “a first logic circuit which receives a status detection signal from an external status detecting part; a first edge-triggering flip-flop circuit device which receives an output of the first logic circuit; a second edge-triggering flip-flop circuit device which receives an output of the first edge-triggering flip-flop circuit device; a third edge-triggering flip-flop circuit device which receives an output of the second edge-triggering flip-flop circuit device; a second logic circuit which receives outputs of the first edge-triggering flip-flop circuit device and the second edge-triggering flip-flop circuit device; a third logic circuit which receives outputs of the first edge-triggering flip-flop circuit device and the third edge-triggering flip-flop circuit device; and a bus driver which receives an output of the third logic circuit and outputs a status bit signal,” as recited in amended independent claim 6. In other words, the invention of amended claim 6 is a status bit setting circuit that receives a status detection signal from an external status detecting part and outputs a status bit signal using a first, second, and third logic circuit and a first, second, and third edge-triggering flip-flop circuit device.

Further, it would not have been obvious to have combined the integrated circuit device of Alwais with the status bit circuit of Nix for the purpose of accurately detecting every state change in the input signal. The object of Alwais is to provide a user controlled transparent latch with a nonvolatile shadow circuit to retain its state in the absence of power (Alwais, col. 1, lines 44-47). Therefore, the objective of Alwais has no specific relevance to the above-mentioned purpose of accurately detecting every state change in the input signal. There is no adequate motivation to combine the integrated circuit device of Alwais with the status bit circuit of Nix without having to rely on the Applicant’s own disclosure and, even if Alwais were combined with Nix, the invention of amended claim 6 would not result.

Therefore, since neither Nix nor Alwais discusses or suggests “a first logic circuit which receives a status detection signal from an external status detecting part; a first edge-triggering flip-flop circuit device which receives an output of the first logic circuit; a second edge-triggering flip-flop circuit device which receives an output of the first edge-triggering flip-flop circuit device; a third edge-triggering flip-flop circuit device which receives an output of the second edge-triggering flip-flop circuit device; a second logic circuit which receives outputs of the first edge-triggering flip-flop circuit device and the second edge-triggering flip-flop circuit device; a third logic circuit which receives outputs of the first edge-triggering flip-flop circuit device and the third edge-triggering flip-flop circuit device; and a bus driver which receives an output of the third logic circuit and outputs a status bit signal,” as recited in amended independent claim 6, and there is no adequate motivation to combine the references, amended claim 6 patentably distinguishes

over the references relied upon. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 7-10 depend either directly or indirectly from amended independent claim 6, and include all the features of claim 6, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the references relied upon. Therefore, claims 7-10 patentably distinguish over the references relied upon for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of these § 103(a) rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-10 are pending and under consideration.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

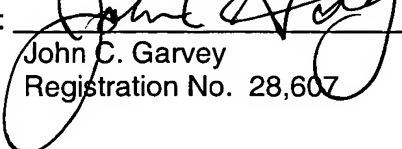
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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